

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of operating a gaming system, the method comprising:

(a) causing at least one processor to execute a plurality of instructions to initiate a secondary game at a gaming device, in which the course a play of the secondary game depends being based on at least one outcomes of two or more handle pulls a plurality of plays of a primary game;

(b) at a first point in time, causing the at least one processor to execute the plurality of instructions to determine at a first time a first game situation of the secondary game, in which the first game situation includes a first amount of time available for completing the secondary game;

(c) causing the at least one processor to execute the plurality of instructions to randomly determine, based on a random number generator, a first outcome; and

(d) at a second, subsequent point in time, causing the at least one processor to execute the plurality of instructions to determine, at a second time, based on the first game situation and the first outcome, a second game situation of the secondary game, said second game situation being based on the first game situation and the randomly determined first outcome, in which the second game situation includes a second amount of time available for completing the secondary game; in which the wherein a difference between the first amount of time available for completing the secondary game and the second amount of time available for completing the secondary game is different is greater than the an amount of elapsed time between the first point in time and the second point in time; and

(e) when an amount of time available to complete the secondary game reaches a designated amount of time;

(i) causing the at least one processor to execute the plurality of instructions to determine whether to provide any awards for any generated secondary game outcomes; and

(ii) causing the at least one processor to execute the plurality of instructions to cause the secondary game to end.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The method of Claim 1, wherein further including determining a reduction of time associated with the first randomly determined outcome is associated with a reduction of the first amount of time available for completing the secondary game, said reduction of the first amount of time available for completing the secondary game being independent of any amount of time elapsed in the secondary game.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method of Claim 2, in which determining a second game situation includes determining, at a second time, based on wherein the difference between the first amount of time available for completing the secondary game situation and the reduction second amount of time available for completing the secondary game is greater than the amount of elapsed time, a second game situation, in which between the first point in time and the second point in time game situation includes a second amount of time available for completing the secondary game.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method of Claim 2, in which wherein the difference difference between the first amount of time available for completing the secondary game and the second amount of time available for completing the secondary game is equal to the sum of: (i) the amount of time reducedtion of from the first amount of time available for completing the secondary game, and (ii) the amount of elapsed time between the first point in time and the second point in time.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method of Claim 1, ~~wherein in which~~ determining a first situation includes determining, at a first time, a first situation of the secondary game, in which the first situation includes a the first amount of time available for completing the secondary game is a first amount of time available for completing a first number of additional plays of the primary game ~~handle pulls in the secondary game~~.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The method of Claim 5, ~~wherein in which~~ determining a second situation includes determining, at a second time, based on the first game situation and the first outcome, a second game situation, in which the second game situation includes a the second amount of time available for completing the secondary game is a second amount of time available for completing a second number of additional plays of the primary game ~~handle pulls in the secondary game~~.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method of Claim 6, ~~in which wherein the a~~ difference between the second number of handle pulls is one less than additional plays of the primary game and the first number of additional plays of the primary game is one additional play of the primary game ~~handle pulls~~.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method of Claim 1, ~~wherein in which~~ determining a first situation includes determining at a first time a first situation of the secondary game, in which the first situation includes a the first amount of time available for completing the secondary game is a first amount of time available for a game character to reach a destination in the secondary game.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method of Claim 1, ~~wherein in which~~ determining a first situation includes determining at a first time a first situation of the secondary game, in which the first situation includes a the first amount of time available for completing the secondary game is a first amount of time available to obtain a target number of game indicia.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method of Claim 1, ~~in which wherein~~ determining the first randomly determined outcome includes:

receiving an initiation signal from a player;

causing the at least one processor to execute the plurality of instructions to generating a one of a plurality of different random numbers;

causing the at least one processor to execute the plurality of instructions to determining an one of a plurality of different outcomes associated with based on the generated random number, ~~in which the determined outcome comprises being~~ associated with at least one symbol of a set of symbols;

causing the at least one processor to execute the plurality of instructions to cause spinning a set of reels of the gaming device to spin, the set of reels being associated with the set of symbols; and

causing the at least one processor to execute the plurality of instructions to cause stopping the set of reels to stop spinning such that the ~~set of at least one~~ symbols of the set of symbols that is associated with the determined outcome ~~is are visible~~ displayed to the player.

Claim 11 to 20 (canceled).

Claim 21 (previously presented): The method of Claim 1, further comprising: ~~wherein receiving a prepayment for the two or more handle pulls plurality of~~ plays of the primary game is received prior to an initiation of the secondary game, ~~wherein the prepayment is being~~ distinct from an addition of credits to a balance of credits available for wagering on ~~a the~~ primary game.

Claim 22 to 25 (canceled).